



BONSAI NOTEBOOK

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

February 2016 vol 61

February 2016 Program

By: Zach Rabalais

I'd like to start off my message with a quick thank you for giving me the opportunity to act as the Vice President of the Austin Bonsai Society. I hope to bring you a 2016 packed with great programs. As I sit outside in my t-shirt and shorts writing this, I'm having a hard time believing that we've had a winter at all this year. It seems like we've been stuck in the warmer months of Fall for the last half of the year, but now Spring is already right around the corner. With this being the case our upcoming February meeting seems to be right on track to line up with everyone's re-potting schedule.

Our February program will be an in depth look at re-potting and developing root over rock bonsai led by Joey McCoy. We will be re-potting and examining the root progression on root over rock style trees that were started by the club a few years ago. The root over rock or root clinging to rock style is a well-established bonsai technique that mimics what we find in nature on rocky slopes and river banks where the years and the elements have eroded the soil and slowly exposed the roots of the trees that make these places their home.

We encourage all of our members that are interested in creating their own root over rock tree to bring their own materials to the meeting and to the work shop the following Tuesday(2/16). Keep in mind that species with long strong growing roots are ideal when attempting this technique so make your plant selections accordingly. Elms, Trident Maples, Conifers with strong roots, and Ficus are all good candidates for root over rock as well as many other species of tree. We would also like to encourage you to bring in any already established root over rock trees that you may have and need help with, or just something for show and tell to brighten up the meeting.

I would also like to let everyone know about a new idea that we have for the March meeting. It is a pot and gear swap. Do you have any pots that you just never found the right tree for or tools that you've upgraded and haven't touched in years? Maybe these things are just what someone else is looking for, and just maybe, you can find something that you need as well. Be thinking over the next month about any pots or tools that you might be willing to bring to the March meeting to potentially trade with your fellow bonsai enthusiasts at the swap meet.

We would also like to encourage more people to bring trees to the monthly meetings. Not necessarily something that directly coincides with the program of the month, although that would be great, just something for everyone to enjoy. Maybe you have an Azalea that is in flower one month that will knock everyone's socks off. Maybe you just spent 8 hours tidying up and detail wiring one of your favorite trees and you want to show it off. We would love to have more of this kind of thing at every meeting. It gives everyone something to enjoy and really gives the people who are new to bonsai some inspiration.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 10: ROOT OVER ROCK (creation and repotting)
HOSTESSES: PHINA CHEN and LIZZIE AND NATHAN

FEBRUARY 16: BOARD MEETING
MEMBERS ONLY WORKSHOP: Root over Rock

FEBRUARY 20: SHOHIN SOCIETY MEETS AT
PERSIMMON HILL BONSAI



Elaine White gave a presentation on Suihan Sanyou last month.

(Photo by Joey McCoy)

Austin Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Jonathan Wood
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Nan Jenkins

President's Message by Jonathan Wood

What an peculiar winter! My maples have seen only a few mild freezes, only to have temperatures rocket back up to the 80s. They must wonder if it is winter... or summer! A few more cold snaps possibly to freezing in the extended forecast for February... I am hoping they get to enjoy some needed dormant time.

Our Vice President, Zachary, did a great job leading last month's meeting and I've enjoyed seeing the photos of Elaine's colorful planting. Also, thank you, Chuck Ware, for the tips on the collection of bonsai material in our Hill Country terrain!

Master Bonsai instructor, Kathy Shaner, will be with us in Austin for our April 13th meeting. For interested members, the dates of Kathy's Central Texas workshop and instruction time are April 15, 16, 17, and 18, (depending upon your selection of activities). Please email reservations to Ckmurphy2000@gmail.com.

Looking forward to our root over rock program February 10th! Also, thank you to the Austin Bonsai Society board for keeping our club thriving and for your input into a fantastic year of programming!
Jonathan Wood, ABS President

Bonsai Quote:

"I think once you start practicing bonsai and bonsai gets inside you, you'll never look at trees the same again." Ryan Neil

The rate of advertising in "Bonsai Notebook" is \$6.00 per month or \$35.00 per year, for two column inches minimum. Additional space must be purchased in increments of two column inches. Two column inches measure approximately 3 1/2 inches wide by 2 inches high. All ads must be camera ready and prepaid. Changes to ads must be received 30 days prior to the month of the desired insertions. Other newsletter content is due on the last day of the month, in order to be published in the next month's newsletter.

Lizzie Chen is the editor of "Bonsai Notebook". She may be contacted at lizziechen09@gmail.com

Austin Bonsai on the Internet

Online discussions
Picture and video sharing
Questions and answers
Upcoming events
NO SPAM

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinbonsai/>
or
jvmccoy@sbcglobal.net.

PHOTO CORNER



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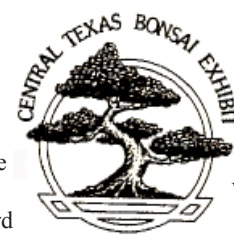
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(512) 847-2514

e-mail: bonsaijg@gmail.com

web page: <http://www.bonsaiexhibittexas.com>

WELCOME BACK MEMBERS

Bill Boytim cbboytim@att.net

Marlene Lagerquist marlene@lagerquist.com

**ABS General Meeting
January 13, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Vice President, Zachary Rabalais.

Refreshment, was provided by Pat Ware and Alisan Clarke.

The list was passed around for everyone to sign up for refreshment in the coming year.

Pat Ware, passed out the sheet of the Profit and Loss from January through December 2015 expensive.

Joey McCoy, gave us an update on the progress TTSBE is making in the building and exhibit at Zilker Garden . There is a pilot program which will start in a month or so. The TTSBE will have stands to display the beautiful trees; the stands are in the process of being built now. There will be about four or five trees on display, which should give visitors at the Garden and idea of what's to come in the future. Joey, will announce when everything is ready. He will need volunteers to sign up for monitoring those trees, and to make sure the sprinkler system is working correctly. He also mentioned that there was a need for a Construction Manager, License Plumbers, and Electricians.

Joey, informed us that one of our ABS member Nilda Garcia has offered her land for a dig, this coming March 18, 19, 20. For those who will participate, there was a signup sheet.

Alisan, reported that the Gift Shop was making a profit. This will help to pay the employees and keep the shop open.

Pat, passed out a sheet for everyone to write their name, phone number and e-mail address. It is a petition to take a count of those that support the Zilker Garden. It is to show the city the support and hopefully, Zilker will get a bigger share of the budget.

Zachary, introduce Elaine White, who was doing one of the programs for the evening. Elaine, studied in Japan in 1962. The program was on Sho-Chiku-Bai. Elaine gave us some insight into this particular arranged of plants in Japan. Sho-Chiku-Bai, (Three Friends of Winter) symbolize pine, bamboo, and plum, which do not wither as the cold season set in. This arrangement, are grouped together in the context of winter because they will flourish at that season. Elaine, said that in Japan, it is particularly associated with the start of the Lunar New Year, making a beautiful display for home.

Chuck Ware, did the program on digging large trees, just in time for the March dig. Chuck was very informative about the process of tree digging. The process in digging a tree, selection with potential, inspect the tree before digging. Have patience, remembering the soil, the climate it like, the area it is grown in, and the Nebari. Large trees are not for Bonsai, look at it critically. Don't dig a tree bigger than you can handle. The tools to take along for a dig are loppers (two sizes), saw, reciprocating saw, pick for roots, garbage bag, peanuts, newspaper, water, cord, soil, containers and marker for trees. Make sure that you have permission to dig on their property. After digging make sure you fill in the hole. Clean up afterwards and thank them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

ABS Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2016
Zerita Rogers, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by President Jonathan Wood.

Present were Zachary Rabalais, Pat Ware, Ange Hewes, May Lau Tse, Simon Tse, Zerita Rogers, Jim Baumann.

The Board voted to accept the minutes for our last meeting.

Pat Ware, discussed the Treasurers Report and we had a profit of \$2,450.51 for the 2015 year. Pat mentioned that the family of Audrey Lanier, who recently passed away, suggested contributions to our Bonsai Society in lieu of flowers. Donations to the Society have so far amounted to \$350.00. She also reported that a CD for \$5,000 at 2.15% was acquired with a maturity date of 2018.

The treasurer's report was approved by Zachary Rabalais, and accepted by the Board.

Pat also mentioned that the annual dues are now due. If you have not paid them, please contact Pat Ware. Pat also mentioned that the convention is being held in Longview 2018. There is a need for one person to help with refreshments in July.

Joey McCoy did the sharpening of tools at our workshop on Tuesday evening.

The discussion this evening focused on this year presentation of the upcoming events for 2016. The Board has a lot of new ideas, such as a beginning competition with nursery plants. For our General Meetings have some members bring a Bonsai Tree. A photo contest of trees from nature. This will be a year contest. We will vote in November at our annual party on the trees. Simon will put the photo in the December Newsletter. None of this has been confirmed as yet, some of the Board members has some fantastic ideas, which can be explored for the future. There will more to come later.

Joey McCoy and Jim Baumann will be doing the Root over Rock at the February meeting.

Jonathan, adjourned meeting at 8:05

LONE STAR BONSAI FEDERATION MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2015

Houston, Texas

Attendees:

Mark Bynum – President, Ft. Worth delegate
Howard Smith – Vice President, Dallas delegate
Kevin Preston – Treasurer, San Antonio delegate
Pete Parker – Secretary, Houston delegate
Nan Jenkins – Austin delegate
Yvonne Padilla – Corpus Christi delegate
Versie Marks – Corpus Christi alternate
Alan Walker – Lake Charles delegate
Shannon Gilliland – Longview delegate
Dolores Plaisted – Shohin Society delegate

Unable to attend:

Jonathan Wood – Austin alternate
Lowell Tilley – Baton Rouge delegate
Jerry Riley – Dallas alternate
Terry Dubois – Houston alternate
Don Pearson – Lake Charles alternate
Mike Denholm – Longview alternate
Donna Dobberfuhr – San Antonio alternate
Alisan Clarke – Shohin society alternate

President Mark Bynum called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no corrections to the June 13, 2015 minutes, so they were approved.

President's Report

The health of LSBF appears good based on current activities and financials. The Louisiana clubs that have not joined LSBF were resolicited. There has been no response so far. Mark is looking into soliciting clubs in Oklahoma, but it is difficult to find contact information for them.

Vice President's Report

Insurance for the learning seminar was only \$375 since it is just a 1 ½ day affair.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin reported that, as of October 9, 2015, we have \$15,100.59 in the treasury with a few PayPal deposits yet to be added to that total. Kevin provided the Board with a notional budget for next year (Attached).

Newsletter Report

Mark will edit the next issue of the newsletter. After that we need to find a permanent editor. Please discuss with club members to see if a candidate can be identified.

Website

Simon Tse from the Austin club is interested in the Webmaster position. Mark will discuss it with him further during the seminar.

Facebook Page

Mark reminded the Board that any of us can post to the Facebook page. Please post any significant local events.

Committee Reports

Historical committee – There has been little progress so far.

Convention Reports

2016 – Yvonne distributed copies of a flier (attached) about the 2016 convention that will be held at the Emerald Beach Hotel in Corpus from October 13 – 16 next year. Featured artists are Ed Trout, Jason Schley, Joe Day and Frank Mihalic. There will be an emphasis on cascade and semi-cascade styles at this convention. Registration materials will be ready for the June 2016 Board meeting.

2017 – Fort Worth and Dallas have agreed to co-host the convention in 2017. Sylvia Smith and Mark Bynum will co-chair. Bjorn Bjorholm has been booked for the convention. No venue as yet. Workshop material is being assembled with 4 or 5 sets of material already in hand. The convention will most likely occur in April.

2018 - The San Antonio and Longview clubs are discussing whether or not they would like to host the 2018 convention. Those two clubs will report back to the Board at the January meeting.

2015 Symposium – Howard reported on the status of the learning seminar that was underway at the time of the Board meeting. Security costs are higher than expected due to the city of Houston insisting on the use of off-duty HPD officers. The Rocky Mountain juniper originally slated as a demo tree has been swapped out for a prostrate juniper. Many thanks to Kevin for

donating the learning seminar pins. There were sixty-two registrants at the time of the meeting.

Texas Tour Artists

Shannon made a motion that the clubs each be reimbursed \$100 toward the event fees of the Texas Tour artists for 2015; second by Kevin. Motion passed.

2015 – Owen Reich was the Touring Artist for 2015. The only issue that surfaced was unequal attention to workshop attendees at one workshop. The Board expressed their thanks to Kevin for all of his work scheduling the tour.

2016 – Rodney Clemons is the 2016 touring artist. His schedule is attached. Once again we owe Kevin our gratitude for taking on the scheduling.

LSBF Texas Artist Program

There have been only a few changes to the list since our June meeting. Pete will go ahead and distribute the list to the Board.

Election of Officers

Shannon reported on behalf of the nominating committee that included herself, Versie and Nan. They recommended the following slate of officers for the 2016-2017 term:

President – Howard Smith

Vice-President – Pete Parker

Treasurer – Kevin Preston

Secretary – Shannon Gilliland

Nan moved to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded by Alan. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Kevin suggested that we consider ways in which other clubs can help out the club that is hosting a convention.

Mark indicated that the convention manual should be ready by the end of this year.

The next meeting will be held in January at a location to be named later.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.

FEBRUARY BONSAI
BY: JOHN MILLER

Have you been enjoying the landscape this month. There is much styling info to learn if you look at the landscape while driving around. With all the leaves gone you can see the branch structure, what pleases you and what is not so good. Notice the different ramifications for the various species of trees. Also it is just plain beautiful (if you ignore the trash on the ground). Its not all gray. There are many shades of gray involved. Some trunk are black. The exfoliating bark on the sycamores leave the limbs stark white, looking like bleached bones hanging in the forest. And the twigs have various hues, willows are red or golden, ash has a greenish hue. The evergreens give splashes of green and the possum hawk decorates the landscape with its red berries. A great time of the year.

The timing of the spring functions, such as repotting, will depend on your microclimate in your backyard. If you have kept your trees from freezing they will want to start growing much earlier than those kept outside all winter. Repotting can be done at any time during the dormancy but new roots are susceptible to freezing so you must have some place to protect them after repotting. The 'best' time to repot the deciduous temperate zone trees is when the buds are just beginning to swell. Generally this will be before the last of the freezing weather. Trees that leaf out early, maples and elms, can withstand a few degrees of frost but if repotted you must protect the roots. Sometimes this just means setting them on the ground, possibly with some mulch covering the pot. Some species such as the oaks and willows are naturally programmed to wait much later so that there is very little chance to get nipped. Typically, in my collection, the elms will be first, foliage showing about the end of February, along with the earliest maples. Then during March, the rest of the maples and most of the others. The deciduous oaks will come out around April 1. The live oaks and the cork oaks usually drop their leaves and get their new foliage during March.

The newer wisdom on azaleas is that you also repot them at this time. The roots will be reestablished by blooming time. This is much easier on the tree than waiting until after bloom when the temperature will be hot. (An aside note: later on before blooming starts you will be removing a lot of excess buds anyway which will reduce the stress on the tree at that time).

There are two kinds of pruning used on bonsai. When the tree is being styled you will be doing development pruning. Let the branches run wild to get thickness and then cut back severely and make angles and secondary

branches.

After the branch is developed you will need to do rami-fication so you will have smaller leaves and tiny twigs. When new growth appears, keep it pinched so you keep the internodes short and develop a compact set of twigs on the branches. On alternate leaved species (i.e. elms) pinch when the shoot gets 4 or 5 leaves. Finger nails or shears can be used. If the twig gets too long it will be tough and you have to use shears. On opposite leaved trees (maples) pinch the central shoot as soon as it can be distinguished from the two leaves. To do this really right you need to use pointed tweezers.

If you have not used an horticultural oil, the time is fast running out. The oil would be used to kill scale and over-wintering mites and other boogers. When new growth starts, the problems to look for are the above mentioned mites but especially aphids and mealy bugs. These can be controlled as well as giving the plants the required fertilizer by using an organic spray (4 tablespoons each of liquid kelp, liquid fish emulsion, 5% apple cider vinegar, and liquid molasses in one gallon of water. All these are available in any organic nursery.) If leaf spot, mildew or any other fungal problems appear, use a baking soda (Sodium bicarbonate), Potassium bicarbonate, or a commercial fungicide spray.

Spring flowering plants will have their buds set on last years growth so pruning them will remove some flowers. Those that bloom later in the year will generally bloom on this years growth. Pruning them will reduce the amount of flowers. In some cases such as crape myrtle, tip pruning of the new growth will result in no flowers at all. In these cases you must decide which is most important, ramification or flowers. A compromise would be to prune the branch shorter than you normally would and then let it bloom on new growth which will at the proper length, at least for the first flowering of the season.

When the growth starts the tree will need fertilizer. However, use one that has a small amount of nitrogen (the first number). The tree is naturally programmed to grow rapidly at this time so you don't need to encourage it further. Feed lightly to maintain a healthy green foliage. Trace minerals should be added to help with both the foliage color and the color of blooms.

Wire removal---Anytime you work on trees you should be noting if any wire is cutting into a branch. Repotting is a very good time to check all your trees for such damage. Sometimes you wire one or two branches to adjust them a bit and forget that you did. Start at the tip of the branch and completely remove that wire before going to the next so you don't inadvertently leave loops on the branch.

An important job which many neglect saying they are not going to show any trees is to detail their trees. This makes them look their best and that helps give you incentive to follow other good practices. Start by checking the branches. Prune any out of place or too long twigs. Remove any unnecessary wire, that is wire on limbs that have set in place. Treat any jin and shari that needs it. Then move down to the pot. Be sure it is clean and all lime deposits are removed. Steel wool works great to clean pots. A coating with a very light wax polish such as leaf shine will make the pot look good and help keep the mineral deposits from forming. Then check the soil. It should cover the outer roots. The surface of the soil must be clean of any fallen leaves or other debris.

What can you do on cold rainy days? Think about how to upgrade and improve your bonsai knowledge and your collection. Plan to register for the LSBF convention to be held in Corpus Christi in October this year. Do a workshop or two. You cannot learn bonsai out of a book, you need to get the whys as well as the where-to-cuts. Other possibilities would be the opportunities your local club offers and in many cases are ignored. An exhibition should be a learning event for you, not just a show. Each tree there has a problem or two that have been cleverly concealed or the artist has drawn your eye away to some good feature.

BONSAI NOTEBOOK

Austin Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 340474

Austin, Texas 78734



The Austin Bonsai Society is a nonprofit organization which exists to help in providing guidance and education for individuals in their desire to learn and expand their knowledge and skill in the arts of bonsai.

The Society holds regular meetings, twelve months a year, on the second Wednesday of each month. Our social period begins at 7:00 PM, followed by our program at 7:30 PM. Normally, unless announced otherwise, these meetings are held in the Zilker Garden Center building, located on Barton Springs Road in Zilker Park, Austin, Texas. We offer a monthly program of interest to the general membership.

The cost of membership is presently only \$30.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family membership.

For additional information, please contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, Texas 78734



SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

PHOTO BY LIZZIE CHEN